GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3830
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2002
PENSION TO WAR WIDOWS
AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO;C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF;RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA;SHYAMA SINGH;T.T.V. DHINAKARAN

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a news item captioned `71 war widows a deprived lot` appearing in the Hindu dated July 11, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Women, who were widowed during the 1965 and 1971 wars and latter remarried have petitioned his Ministry against the discriminatory pension rules which denies them benefits normally extended to war widows;

(d) whether the aggrieved women have also requested the Government (Defence Ministry) to liberalise pension rules revised after the Kargil War, which seek to extend pension and other concessions to war widows, even if they remarried;

(e) if so, the details in this regard; and

(f) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY GIVEN TO PARTS (b) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 383(8.8.2002

Some petitions have been received requesting for rationalization of Liberalised Special Family Pension in respect of war widows of pre 1.1.1996 cases of Armed Forces personnel. The demand of the war widows of 1965 and 1971 wars relates to modified parity in pensionary benefits given to pre 1996 war widows. Their demand is that the liberalized family pension and other benefits granted to war widows remarried after 1.1.1996 should also be granted to widows remarried before 1.1.1996.

2. The war widows are entitled to liberalized family pension at the rate of last pay drawn by the deceased at the time of his death. In pursuance of the recommendation of the Fifth Pay Commission, the liberalized family pension of war widows prior to 1.1.1996 has also been revised to the minimum of the new pay scale introduced w.e.f. 1.1.1996 provided their consolidated liberalized family pension is not more than the minimum of the new pay scale.

3. The demand of the 1965 and 1971 war widows who got remarried prior to 1.1.1996 is for extending to them the benefits of liberalized family pension given to the widows who got remarried after 1.1.1996. According to the orders in force before 1.1.1996, the liberalized family pension granted to a war widow was converted into ordinary family pension from the date following the date of her remarriage except in case of remarriage with real brother of the deceased personnel. This order has been modified to provide that the widows remarrying after 1.1.1996 can continue to draw liberalized family pension provided they continue to support children after remarriage. If they do not support children after remarriage they are allowed ordinary family pension and balance pension is transferred to children. The revised orders have prospective effect from 1.1.1996.

No further liberalization in this regard is envisaged.